

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, delete the heading "DESCRIPTION" and insert the following new heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, between lines 23 and 25, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

--These objects are achieved in accordance with the invention with the characteristics ~~listed in appended independent claim 1~~ disclosed below.--

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

--Advantageous embodiments of the invention are apparent from the ~~dependent claims~~ below.--

Page 3, before line 1, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 3, between lines 17 and 19, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--